

A Visitor's Guide to USDA's International Programs

Updated June 2005

The following information was compiled for those who are interested in USDA's many international programs. Organized by the Department's Mission Areas, the Roadmap provides an informal guide to most of USDA's international offices and to USDA programs that may be of interest to our colleagues at U.S. Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. It offers a brief description of each and then points the reader in the direction of a useful website.

In fact, the descriptive material found herein was taken directly from those websites without further interpretation, and readers are encouraged to check mentioned sites for updates and revisions. Every effort was made to obtain information about current programming opportunities; however, many programs listed may be ongoing, open for renewal, or currently closed. Please contact the individual agencies responsible for these programs for more information.

We thank our university partners for identifying the need for such a Roadmap. It was developed by the International Program Office in USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. Suggestions about how to make the Roadmap more useful or complete should be directed to us at (202) 720-3801 or to Breanne Svehla at BSVEHLA@CSREES.USDA.GOV.

MISSION AREA: NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Forest Service (FS)

Established in 1905, the Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/>

International Programs

International Programs coordinates the Forest Service's international work. It promotes sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation internationally. FS International Programs partners with many types of organizations, large and small, private and public, on a wide range of technical cooperation and policy development issues. It provides technical skills by tapping the expertise of a large number of FS researchers, foresters, wildlife biologists, hydrologists, policy makers, and other specialists. International Programs has three main staff units: Technical Cooperation, Policy, and Disaster Assistance Support Program (DASP).

<http://www.fs.fed.us/global/>

International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF)

As a scientific institution, the IITF is committed to research in tropical forestry and the transfer of technologies. To address aspects of physical, social, and economic issues in managing tropical forests, the IITF has more than sixty years of experience in interdisciplinary research.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/global/iitf/>

Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry

The Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry has grown to become a center of research and technology transfer on matters of the management, preservation, and restoration of natural ecosystems and landscapes throughout the Pacific. The Institute's work is conducted by a unique structure of teams that include both scientists funded by FS research and professionals funded through State and Private Forestry and International Forestry.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/ipif/>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS puts nearly 70 years of experience to work in assisting owners of America's private land with conserving their soil, water, and other natural resources. It delivers technical assistance based on sound science and suited to a customer's specific needs.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

International Programs

The role of international programs in NRCS is to help other countries utilize their natural resources without depleting them by providing technical assistance; exchanging scientific and technical information; contributing to the overall achievement of U.S. foreign policy that seeks to promote economic stability, reduce poverty, and solve world food problems; and providing

opportunities that will broaden and increase the technical knowledge and professional capability of NRCS personnel.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/international/>

International Technical Assistance

NRCS receives numerous requests to provide technical assistance in foreign countries. It helps improve the management and conservation of natural resources globally by providing long- and short-term technical assistance and leadership with our foreign partners. Due to lack of statutory authority to fund technical assistance outside the U.S., NRCS participates in these activities on a reimbursable basis, through USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service/International Cooperation and Development (FAS/ICD).

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/international/tech_asst.htm

International Visitor Program: The Visitors Program is designed to provide specialized on-the-job training in the U.S. for foreign nationals from other countries. Foreign officials are given opportunities to gain a better understanding of ecosystem-based assistance by observing and discussing conservation programs in the U.S., in order to transfer applicable methods back to their home countries. There are times, however, when NRCS employees are contacted directly by universities or other institutions in order to provide assistance to these visitors. Funding sources vary from program to program.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/international/visitor_prog.html

MISSION AREA: FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Stabilizing farm income, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, providing credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of disaster are the missions of the Farm Service Agency.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>

Kansas City Commodity Office Export Operations Division (EOD)

EOD purchases and delivers agricultural commodities to foreign countries under the Food for Peace Program (Title II and III); Food for Progress Program, Section 416, through voluntary agencies, World Food Program, and the Agency for International Development. EOD also arranges for survey of cargo at destination ports and delivery locations for a number of non-governmental organizations.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daco/kcco.htm#eod>

Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)

FAS is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information about global supply and demand, trade trends, and market opportunities. FAS seeks improved market access for U.S. products; administers export financing and market development programs; provides export services; carries out food aid and market-related technical assistance programs; and provides linkages to world resources and international organizations.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/>

FAS Grant Directory: This directory provides an overview of a selected number of funding opportunities for agriculturally related research.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/grants/director.html>

FAS Grant Opportunities:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/grants/grants.html>

Commodity and Marketing

AgExport Services Division

The AgExport Services Division increases the sales of U.S. food, farm, seafood, and forest products to overseas markets by linking U.S. exporters with foreign buyers.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/AGX.html>

Agribusiness in a Global Environment: The purpose of the Agribusiness in a Global Environment curriculum is to acquaint junior-high and high-school students with the many opportunities for international trade of agricultural products and to make them familiar with some of the factors affecting global marketing. The lessons on this web site may be used for formal education settings and may also provide a resource for anyone interested in improving their understanding of the role of agriculture in international business.

<http://www.ais.msstate.edu/age/index.html>

Marketing Operations Staff (MOS)

MOS provides a full range of managerial and administrative services in support of the fiscal and operational aspects of the foreign market development programs administered by FAS.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/default.htm>

The Emerging Markets Program: The Emerging Markets Program provides funding for technical assistance activities that promote, enhance, or expand the export of U.S. agricultural commodities to overseas emerging markets. Technical assistance is defined quite broadly and includes such activities as feasibility studies, market research, sectorial assessments, orientation visits, specialized training, business workshops, and the like. Resources may be used to support exports of U.S. agricultural commodities and products only through generic activities. Projects are funded on a project-by-project basis.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/em-markets/em-markets.html>

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC): TASC is designed to assist U.S. organizations by providing funding for projects that address sanitary, phytosanitary, and technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. Examples of activities these grants may cover include seminars and workshops, study tours, field surveys, pest and disease research, and pre-clearance programs. Two million dollars of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) resources are available each fiscal year through 2007.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/tasc/TASCFactSheet.html>

Section 108 Foreign Currency Program: The Section 108 Foreign Currency Program provides cost-sharing assistance in the form of foreign currencies to both the public and private sector for the development, maintenance, and expansion of long-term export markets for U.S. agricultural products and agricultural technical assistance. Preference is given to nonprofit U.S. agricultural and trade groups that represent an entire industry or are nationwide in membership and scope.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/factsheets/108fact.htm>

Export Credits

Export Credit Guarantee Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture administers export credit guarantee programs for commercial financing of U.S. agricultural exports. These USDA Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) programs encourage exports to buyers in countries where credit is necessary to maintain or increase U.S. sales, but where financing may not be available without CCC guarantees.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/default.htm>

Food Aid

FAS helps provide U.S. agricultural commodities to feed millions of hungry people in needy countries through direct donations and concessional programs. Food aid may be provided through four program authorities: Public Law 480 (P.L. 480), also known as Food for Peace; Food for Progress; Section 416(b); and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/factsheets/foodaid.html>

International Cooperation and Development (ICD)

Multilateral Development Banks and U.S. Agriculture: FAS is working to strengthen linkages between the U.S. agricultural community and the multilateral development banks (MDBs). As the United States attempts to work closer with MDBs, the goals are two-fold: 1) to help developing countries tap U.S. expertise to surmount the barriers of hunger and poverty and build more stable economies, and 2) to enhance U.S. competitiveness by providing links to world

resources -- genetic materials and technology -- and building relationships that can lead to a rich harvest of scientific advances and business ventures. Universities can play an important role in this process as expertise, goods, and services are needed to implement MDB programs.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/multilat.html>

Norman E. Borlaug International Science and Technology Fellows Program: The cornerstone of the Borlaug Fellowship Program is faculty and scientist exchange programs with developing countries. The program provides short-term scientific training for international agricultural research scientists and policymakers from selected developing countries. The purpose of the Borlaug Fellowship Program is to help countries strengthen agricultural practices through the transfer of new science and agricultural technologies.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/info/borlaug/borlaugfellow.htm>

U.S.-Egypt Science and Technology Agreement: The Joint Board on Scientific and Technology Cooperation supports collaborative Research Grants, Junior Scientists Development Visit Grants, and Workshops that bring together American and Egyptian scientists under the U.S.-Egypt Science and Technology Agreement. The goals of the Science and Technology Agreement are to strengthen the scientific and technological capabilities of the United States and Egypt, to broaden and expand relations between the extensive scientific and technological communities in both countries, and to promote scientific and technological cooperation in areas of mutual benefit for peaceful purposes.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/grants/Egys-t.html>

Development Resources Division (DRD)

DRD serves as the technical assistance arm of the ICD program area of FAS and is a leader in mobilizing USDA involvement in international agricultural development. DRD manages USDA technical assistance, training, and cooperative programs with other nations to help build stable economies and a more prosperous world. Government-to-government institutional development is emphasized, with the goal of achieving sustainable agricultural production, mutual economic growth, conservation of natural resources, and a protected environment. Assistance is furnished on either long- or short-term assignments. Project services are provided on a cost-reimbursable basis to donors and cooperating countries.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/drd/drd.html>

Food Industries Division

The Food Industries Division consists of the Cochran Fellowship Program (CFP), the Professional Development Program (PDP), and the Trade and Investment Program (TIP). The three programs work together to give the Food Industries Division the flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to a wide range of program requests. While CFP works with middle income countries and emerging markets, PDP and TIP can work with lesser developed and Cochran-graduate countries. CFP can only arrange training activities in the United States, while PDP and TIP can respond to a wider range of training and technical assistance requests both in the United States and overseas.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/food-industries/index.html>

The Cochran Fellowship Program: The purpose of CFP is to provide U.S.-based agricultural training opportunities for senior and mid-level overseas specialists and administrators from public and private sectors that are concerned with agricultural trade, agribusiness development, management, policy, and marketing. CFP provides short term training opportunities that match participants with professionals in their fields. Training programs vary, but most include technical instruction, "hands on" experience and practical field observations. Eligible countries are those considered middle income, emerging markets or emerging democracies. Applications must be submitted in English. Candidates are interviewed and evaluated by a USDA committee.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/food-industries/cfp/index.html>

The Professional Development Program: PDP plays a leading role in designing and delivering professional development activities appropriate to specific country or regional needs. PDP has the capability to design, manage and evaluate a wide-range of training and technical cooperation programs related to food industry/agribusiness development, food processing and distribution, agribusiness policy and research, business planning and management, support services such as credit and financial institutions, local associations, and related areas.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/food-industries/pdp/index.html>

Trade and Investment Program: TIP provides linkages between U.S. agribusinesses and their counterparts in developing and middle income countries and emerging markets to promote mutually beneficial commercial relationships and economic development. TIP programs work to reduce institutional and technical barriers to trade, support the development of trade policies and regulations consistent with WTO, improve marketing infrastructure, and nurture the development of agribusiness linkages and networks. Major activities include short-term seminars and workshops on specific marketing issues, participation in trade shows, market assessments, and agribusiness opportunity missions.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/food-industries/tip/trade-invest.html>

International Organization Affairs Division (IOAD)

IOAD protects and advances U.S. agricultural interests by keeping U.S. policy views before the international community.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/ioad/ioad.html>

Research and Scientific Exchanges Division (RSED)

RSED promotes international cooperation on sustainable agricultural and forestry systems to help secure a safe and adequate food supply. It supports cooperation between American and foreign researchers through activities directed at potential threats to U.S. agriculture and forestry, development of new technologies, and enhancement of agribusiness and trade in foreign markets. Participating countries benefit through a variety of activities including both short and long-term visits of U.S. and foreign scientists, collaborative research projects, and technical workshops. With U.S. and international funding, RSED develops and implements projects as well as establishes links for the network of agricultural experts in USDA, other federal agencies, the university system and private sector organizations. RSED also provides technical support to design and facilitate project implementation from the development stage through final evaluation.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/rsed/res-scient-exchanges.html>

Teaching Educators Agriculture and Conservation Holistically (TEACH): TEACH is a global agriculture literacy program in which teachers from urban and rural areas with large minority populations gain valuable international experience in agriculture, natural resources, and nutrition while engaging in hands-on agricultural science research activities. Previously known as TEACH US, the TEACH program was created and funded in order to promote the awareness of teaching agricultural and environmental sciences in middle and high schools.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/admin/teach/teach.html>

Scientific Cooperation Research Program: The Scientific Cooperation Research Program supports long-term and short-term international collaborative research and exchange activities that promote both domestic and global food security, sustainable agriculture and resource management, and trade. Joint projects worldwide make practical use of science to help solve mutual agricultural problems and enhance the technical and scientific capabilities of both foreign and U.S. scientists. Funding provided to U.S. scientists is leveraged with resources from other federal programs, universities, the private sector, international organizations, and the collaborating foreign institutions.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/grants/scrp.htm>

International Trade Policy

Food Safety and Technical Services Division

The mission of the Food Safety and Technical Services Division is to ensure compliance with the provisions and obligations set forth in the World Trade Organization agreements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade and to facilitate and support agricultural trade policy objectives.

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/itp/ofsts/ofsts.html>

Risk Management Agency (RMA)

RMA currently does not operate internationally. For more information please visit the RMA website.

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/>

MISSION AREA: RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

While the RUS website does not include information on international programs, RUS staff may be able to describe new or ongoing activities. Contact information is available on the RUS website.

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/>

Rural Housing Service (RHS)

The Rural Housing Service currently does not operate internationally. For more information please visit the RHS website.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/>

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

The mission of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service is "to enhance the quality of life for rural Americans by providing leadership in building competitive businesses including sustainable cooperatives that can prosper in the global marketplace."

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/>

Cooperative Marketing Division (CMD)

CMD enhances the economic well-being of producers by improving the efficiencies of marketing agricultural commodities via cooperatives. CMD uses a combination of research, technical assistance, and educational endeavors to accomplish this goal. CMD is composed of four agricultural commodity marketing program areas--dairy, livestock, and poultry; fruit, vegetable, and specialty crops; grains and oilseeds; and international trade.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/cmddis.htm>

International Trade Program Area

It is the mission of the International Trade Program to provide information and develop decision making tools through research, technical assistance, and other activities to assist cooperatives in maximizing their understanding of, and effectiveness in, the global marketing environment as a means of enhancing the economic well-being of members.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/cmddis.htm>

MISSION AREA: FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

FNS currently does not operate internationally. For more information please visit its website.
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns/>

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP)

CNPP currently does not operate internationally. For more information please visit its website.
<http://www.usda.gov/cnpp/>

MISSION AREA: FOOD SAFETY

Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS)

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/>

Office of International Affairs (OIA)

OIA provides leadership in international food safety activities. It consists of the International Equivalence Staff, Import-Export Programs Staff, Import Inspection Division, and FSIS Codex Program Staff.
<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/about/oia/index.asp>

MISSION AREA: RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS

Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

ARS is USDA's main in-house scientific research agency. ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/>

ARS International Research Projects:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/projects.htm?slicetype=International>

United States National Arboretum (USNA)

The mission of the National Arboretum is to conduct research, provide education, conserve and display trees, shrubs, floral, and other plants to enhance the environment. The U.S. National Arboretum is a U.S. Department of Agriculture research facility and living museum dedicated to serving the public and improving our environment by developing and promoting improved landscape plants and new technologies through scientific research, educational programs, display gardens, and germplasm conservation. The USNA participates in international cooperative programs with Austria, Israel, Japan, People's Republic of China, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, and Ukraine.

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/>

Classical Chinese Garden: Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman and Under Secretary Joseph Jen recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Yang Jiechi, ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States and Madam Jiang Zehui, President of the Chinese Academy of Forestry and Leading member of the State Forestry Administration of China, for the construction of a classical Chinese garden at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/collections/ClassicalChineseGarden.html>

National Agricultural Library (NAL)

As the Nation's primary source for agricultural information, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) has a mission to increase the availability and utilization of agricultural information for researchers, educators, policymakers, consumers of agricultural products, and the public. The Library is one of the world's largest and most accessible agricultural research libraries and plays a vital role in supporting research, education, and applied agriculture.

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/>

International Nutrition Resources:

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/etext/000039.html>

Links to International Agricultural Organizations:

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ref/internat.htm>

Office of International Research Programs (OIRP)

OIRP is the principle ARS contact for international issues. Its mission is to enhance the productivity, effectiveness, and impact of the ARS National Programs through mutually beneficial

international research and development collaborations in agriculture and natural resources science.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/docs.htm?docid=1428>

Research Internships for Early Career South African Agricultural Scientists: The objective of this project is to provide through work experience, cooperative research, and scientific and technology exchange, methodologies useful for solving technical problems within the South African agricultural context and to enhance or establish income generating opportunities in rural communities.

http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/projects/projects.htm?accn_no=405339

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

CSREES' unique mission is to advance knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education, and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System and other partner organizations.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/>

Competitive Programs

The CSREES Competitive Programs Unit manages funding opportunities that challenge the nation's top researchers to identify, solve, and put into practice solutions to problems that improve the safety, quality, productivity, and security of our food supply, the well-being of animals, humans, the environment and natural resources, and rural and urban communities.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/compprogs.html>

National Research Initiative: Agriculture markets more than \$900 billion worth of food annually; 20 percent of U.S. agricultural production is exported to global markets, accounting for significant additional trade value and potential for increased income to U.S. producers. This program invites both fundamental and mission-linked proposals for innovative research in the following priority: Analyses of strategic issues of importance to U.S. agriculture that effect competitiveness of food, fiber, and bio-based products in domestic and foreign markets, including models of competition and cooperation that grow domestic U.S. markets and expand U.S. global trade opportunities.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1106>

Science and Education Resources Development (SERD)

SERD strives for excellence in academic, research, extension, and international programs in the food and agricultural sciences, building coalitions with public and private organizations.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/serd.html>

Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowships Grants Program -Special International Study or Thesis/Dissertation Research Travel Allowances: Proposals may be submitted by universities or colleges who currently have active Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowships Grants. These supplemental grants provide support for Fellows to conduct thesis/dissertation research or to undertake studies outside of the United States.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1180>

International Programs (IP)

With today's increasingly global society, USDA and its partner American colleges and universities must play a major role in preparing U.S. citizens to work and succeed in a rapidly changing world.

CSREES' International Programs office is working with universities to find ways of engaging students, faculty, and staff in the world outside our borders.

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/qlinks/international/intl_activities.html

Overseas Opportunities for Land-Grant University Personnel

IP utilizes the talents of its land-grant university partners to provide technical assistance for its overseas development projects.

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/qlinks/international/in_focus/intl_if_assignments.html

National Initiative to Internationalize Extension

The National Initiative to Internationalize Extension is a 3-year program funded by CSREES to strengthen the international dimension of state extension programs. The initiative hopes to bring attention to the urgent need for engagement with American audiences around global issues, interdependence, and the critical role that extension can play in today's world.

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/qlinks/international/in_focus/intl_if_internationalize.html

International Science and Education (ISE) Competitive Grants Program

The ISE Competitive Grants Program supports research, extension, and teaching activities that will enhance the capabilities of American colleges and universities to conduct international collaborative research, extension, and teaching.

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1240>

Economic Research Service (ERS)

ERS is the main source of economic information and research from the USDA. The mission of ERS is to inform and enhance public and private decision making on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural development.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/>

International Agriculture

ERS specialists provide wide-ranging research and analysis on production, consumption, and trade of key agricultural commodities and on agricultural policies of countries and regions important to U.S. agriculture, as well as on international trade agreements and food security issues.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/view.asp?T=103000>

Market and Trade Economics Division

The Market and Trade Economics Division conducts economic research and analysis on U.S. and global economic and policy factors affecting the structure and performance of agricultural markets and trade. The Division monitors market indicators; provides mid- to long-term forecasts of agricultural market conditions; and assesses the technological, economic, policy, and institutional forces that influence U.S. and world agricultural markets.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/AboutERS/mteddiv.htm>

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

The NASS mission is to provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U. S. agriculture. Each year, the employees of NASS conduct hundreds of surveys and prepare

reports covering virtually every facet of U.S. agriculture -- production and supplies of food and fiber, prices paid and received by farmers, farm labor and wages, farm aspects of the industry.
<http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

International Programs Office

The International Programs Office of NASS has provided technical assistance and training in other countries for more than 40 years to help improve agricultural statistics programs. It offers assistance in data collection methodology using a wide range of survey designs and procedures to improve statistical systems and data quality. Planning and implementation of agricultural statistics improvement programs remains a function of the country receiving assistance.

<http://www.usda.gov/nass/nassinfo/internl.htm>

MISSION AREA: MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)

AMS includes six commodity programs--Cotton, Dairy, Fruit and Vegetable, Livestock and Seed, Poultry, and Tobacco. The programs employ specialists who provide standardization, grading and market news services for those commodities. They enforce such Federal Laws as the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act and the Federal Seed Act.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/>

International Marketing Services

AMS offers an array of valuable services that give buyers and sellers of agricultural products a competitive advantage in the global marketplace.

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/international/>

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

APHIS is responsible for protecting and promoting U.S. agricultural health, administering the Animal Welfare Act, and carrying out wildlife damage management activities. In recent years, the scope of APHIS' protection function has expanded beyond pest and disease management. Because of its technical expertise and leadership in assessing and regulating the risks associated with agricultural imports, APHIS has assumed a greater role in the global agricultural arena.

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

International Services (IS)

To reduce the threat to U.S. agriculture, IS cooperates in a number of major surveillance, eradication, and control programs in foreign countries, focusing on nations where economically significant pests or diseases are found. It plays a major role in ensuring that U.S. agricultural exports are accessible to foreign countries, and works with countries seeking to establish preclearance programs. IS also represents the U.S. Government in dealing with many international and regional organizations concerned with animal and plant health.

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/is/>

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)

GIPSA facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products, and promotes fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture.

<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/>

International Outreach Programs

GIPSA personnel participate in a variety of international assistance programs at the request of U.S. exporters, international importers and end users of U.S. grains and oilseeds, as well as other USDA agencies, USDA Cooperator organizations, and other governments. These activities are typically funded through various programs administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service or Farm Service Agency, USDA Cooperators, GIPSA, or by the private sector on a cost recovery basis.

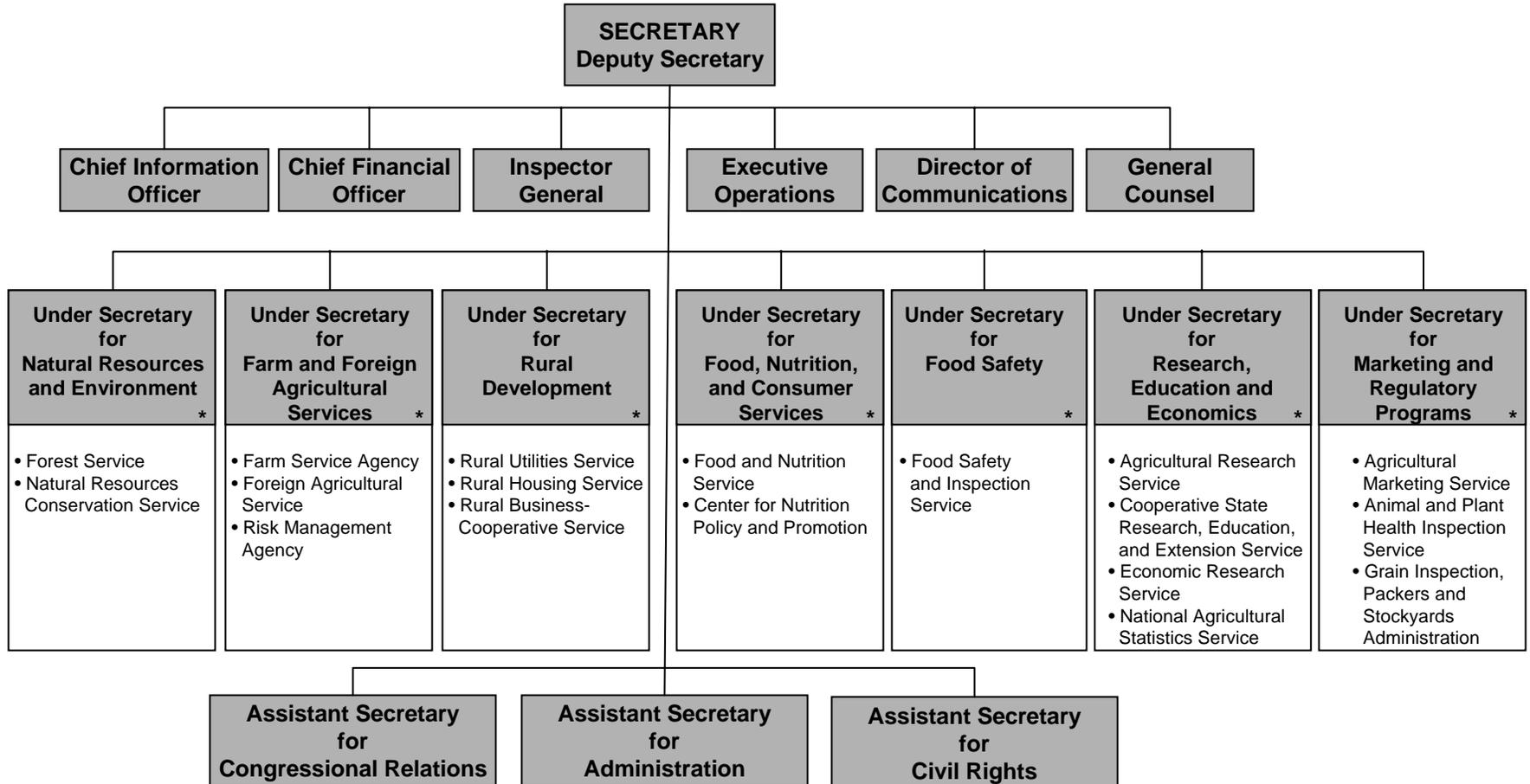
<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/international/intl-services.htm>

Educational Programs

GIPSA provides educational briefings about the U.S. grain market and national inspection system to international trade teams and government representatives. In addition, the Agency can arrange visits to GIPSA field offices, onsite laboratories at export grain elevators, and the Agency's Technical Services Division (TSD) in Kansas City, Missouri. Briefings are tailored to address individual group's interests and concerns.

<http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/international/intl-services.htm#International%20Outreach%20Programs>

Headquarters Organization



* USDA Mission Area

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